

MANUFACTURING FOR TOMORROW

Congressman Chris Lee

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING

A strong education system that can produce a high-skilled workforce is critical to our long-term economic future. In order to remain competitive in today's global economy, it is imperative to invest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational programs. As the chart below demonstrates, our leading trade partners produce a far higher proportion of STEM graduates than the United States. To ensure that U.S. workers are equipped with the knowledge to sustain our country's evolving and innovative manufacturing base, Chris Lee's *Manufacturing for Tomorrow* agenda will:

- Create the U.S. STEM Manufacturing Student Loan Forgiveness Program – Encourages students to enter STEM and manufacturing fields. Graduates with STEM degrees (associates, bachelors, graduate) who are employed in a manufacturing-related career could be eligible to receive \$5,000 per year in loan forgiveness for up to four years.

Undergraduate degrees, 2004 (or most recent year available)

Country/Region	All Fields	STEM Fields	Percent STEM
Japan	551,016	349,015	63.3
China	1,196,290	672,463	56.2
South Korea	261,754	119,338	45.6
United Kingdom	292,090	109,940	37.6
France	321,438	118,954	37.0
Middle East	623,780	212,555	34.1
Mexico	276,690	93,858	33.9
United States	1,407,009	455,848	32.4

Source: National Science Foundation, Science and Engineering Indicators, 2008

- Support the National STEM Education Tax Incentive for Teachers Act of 2009 – Allows certain full-time elementary and secondary school teachers of math, science, engineering, or technology courses a refundable tax credit for 10 percent of their undergraduate tuition up to \$1,000 in any taxable year. (H.R. 705)
- Support the America COMPETES Act – Improves the United States' competitiveness in STEM areas. Provides new authorities for federal STEM education programs, policies, and activities, encourages collaboration between existing federal STEM education programs and improves STEM teaching and learning in higher education.
- Promote Private Sector Partnerships and Academic Institutions – Strengthens and expands scientific and technical education and training in advanced manufacturing.
- Support the American Manufacturing Efficiency and Retraining Investment Collaboration Act (AMERICA Works) – Prioritizes funds designated for Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and Workforce Investment Act to ensure programs result in nationally portable, industry-recognized credentials. Creating industry-recognized credentials will strengthen the pathway for students and transitioning workers to acquire the skills and education necessary for employment in the manufacturing sector. (H.R. 4072)

- Extend Employer-Provided Educational Assistance (Section 127) – Allows individuals \$5,250 in tax-free education benefits provided by an employer each year. This benefit is set to expire December 31, 2010. By making it permanent, it would offer certainty and encourage participation.